

Remarks

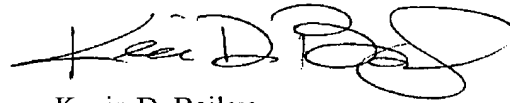
Examiner Matthew Savage is thanked for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the telephone interview on February 8, 2005. During the interview, it was agreed that claims 10 and 30 as amended herein overcome their § 102 rejection based on Stockhowe, U. S. Patent No. 5,772,881, and their § 103 rejection based on Wagner, U. S. Patent No. 6,627,078, in view of Burton, U. S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0114660. Reconsideration of the rejections of claims 10 and 30 as well as the rejections of all claims depending therefrom is therefore requested.

New claims 35-40 are added. Independent claim 35 recites a center tube comprising "a post that is secured to said tube body and comprises a ball shaped as a spheroid and adapted to be contacted by said detent button." Stockhowe does not disclose, and has no need for, such a spheroid-shaped ball.

Wagner also does not disclose a center tube with a spheroid-shaped ball. Mushroom-shaped boss 118 of Wagner's end cap 40 has a rounded periphery for attachment to legs 102, 104 but its end wall is flat, not spheroid-shaped. Moreover, Wagner has no need for its flat end wall to be spheroid-shaped. Such a configuration would be useless to Wagner. Wagner thus has no need for Burton's spherical head 128. Further, in Burton, head 128 is used with a socket 100 to provide a ball-and-socket *pivot* joint. Head 128 is thus able to pivot in socket 100 while being snugly retained therein. Wagner has no need for such pivoting of its mushroom-shaped boss 118 while boss 118 is located between legs 102, 104 because filter 20 is blocked from pivoting by components 56 and 62. One of ordinary skill in the art would thus not have been motivated to modify Wagner's mushroom-shaped boss 118 by Burton. Claims 35-40 are therefore believed to be in condition for allowance.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg, Deposit Account No. 10-0435 with reference to file 9518-74633.

Respectfully submitted,



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